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# Economic and Social Council

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6 March 2002

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Azerbaijan, Georgia,* Tajikistan,* Turkey and Uzbekistan:* draft resolution**

## Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Recalling*, its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999, 44/1 of 2 March 2000 and 45/1 of March 2001,

*Recalling also* the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of civilians, including women and children, in areas of armed conflict,

*Taking into account* the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which also recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action[2] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the provisions regarding violence against women and children, as well as the final outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

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"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[3]

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/38 of 23 April 2001 on hostage-taking, adopted at the fifty-seventh session, of the Commission,[4]

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

*Emphasizing* that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population, including women and children, including capturing them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war[5] and the Protocols additional thereto,[6]

*Concerned* that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

*Recognizing* that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community in order, in strict conformity with international human rights standards, to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

*Expressing its strong belief* that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomsoever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable, including as a means to promote and protect human rights;

2. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, including the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

3. *Condemns also* torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children for the removal of organs, which are the most grave consequences of hostage-taking;

4. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures for the protection of civilian women and children not involved in hostilities and for their immediate release;

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[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

5. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children involved in hostilities;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at is forty-seventh session;

8. *Decides* to consider the question at its forty-seventh session.

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# Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
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Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Armenia,* Azerbaijan, Burundi, Georgia,* Kazakhstan,* Tajikistan,* Turkey and Uzbekistan:* revised draft resolution**

## Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Recalling*, its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999, 44/1 of 2 March 2000 and 45/1 of March 2001,

*Recalling also* the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population, as such, including women and children, in areas of armed conflict not involved in hostilities,

*Taking into account* the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which also recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action[2] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the final outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

02-28506 (E) 130302

"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[3] including the provisions regarding violence against women and children,

*Recalling* Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/38 of 23 April 2001 on hostage-taking, adopted at the fifty-seventh session, of the Commission,[4]

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

*Emphasizing* that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, in particular against women and children not involved in hostilities, including taking them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[5]

*Concerned* that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

*Recognizing* that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community in order, in strict conformity with international human rights standards, to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

*Expressing its strong belief* that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomsoever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable, including as a means to promote and protect human rights;

2. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against the civilian population, as such, in areas of armed conflict, including against women and children not involved in hostilities, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

3. *Condemns also* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children for the purpose of their sexual exploitation, forced labour or services;

4. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures

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[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

for the protection of civilian women and children not involved in hostilities and to release immediately all those who have been taken hostage;

5. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children not involved in hostilities;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children not involved in hostilities who have been taken hostage;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at is forty-seventh session;

8. *Decides* to consider the question at its forty-seventh session.

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# Economic and Social Council

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6 March 2002

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 3 (a)
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system**

**Venezuela:* draft resolution**

## The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution: the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General[1] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action,[3] concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system,

*Recalling* the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[4] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/2002/3.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 5-16 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

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*Recalling also* its resolution 2001/2 of 24 July 2001 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

*Recalling further* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

*Stressing* the need for compliance with the existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements concluded within the context of the Middle East peace process and the need to resume peace negotiations, as soon as possible, in order to reach a final settlement,

*Concerned* about the continuing dangerous deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families, resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

*Expressing* its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts towards ensuring the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvements in the difficult situation on the ground and living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[6] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907[7] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[8] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Member States, financial organization of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning

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[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[7] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**Angola,* Democratic Republic of the Congo,* Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia* and South Africa: draft resolution**

## Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

*Recognizing* that women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries, and therefore profoundly concerned by the fact that out of 40 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) today, women now represent about half of all people over age fifteen living with HIV and AIDS,

*Noting with great concern* that the proportion of women becoming infected with HIV is growing in every region, that in sub-Saharan Africa the majority of those living with HIV are women and that, in the younger age brackets (fifteen to twenty-four years of age), girls are at higher risk of HIV infection and more girls than boys are now infected, and welcoming, in this context, the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa,

*Mindful* that the majority of women and the girl child in most developing countries do not enjoy full social and economic rights, such as education, health care and welfare, and therefore suffer disproportionately from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in the economic and social spheres,

*Recognizing* that women, who constitute the majority of the poor, are especially vulnerable to HIV infection because of their subordinate status in society,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

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in the household and in communities and because of their restricted access to education, gainful employment and health and information services,

*Also recognizing* that women, in particular young girls, are physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and yet receive minimal health care and support when infected,

*Noting with concern* that approximately 80 per cent of the infected women have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected male partner, and acknowledging, therefore, that men have a shared responsibility towards protecting their own and women's sexual health,

*Acknowledging* that millions of women do not have access to means that have proved effective in preventing and lowering infection rates, such as male and female condoms, anti-retroviral drugs, relevant preventive education, acceptable counselling and testing services,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsoring organizations, the United nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, to empower women through capacity development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks which offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Organization of African Unity Special Summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001, and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: "Global Crisis — Global Action", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in June 2001;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment by Governments to the HIV/AIDS goals and objectives contained in the Political Declaration[2] and further actions and initiatives[3] to implement the Beijing Declaration[4] and Platform for Action,[5] as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

3. *Also reaffirms* the rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to have access to health, education and social services, including counselling, and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

4. *Further reaffirms* the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skills training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection;

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[1] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13, chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to better protect themselves from HIV infection;

6. *Emphasizes* that the advancement and empowerment of women is critical to increasing the ability of women and young girls to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Stresses* that every effort should be made by Governments, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority on the development agenda and to implement effective prevention strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly in favour of women and young girls, in the worst-hit regions of Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

9. *Urges* Governments to take steps to create an environment that promotes compassion and support for people infected with HIV/AIDS, to provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, to enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary counselling services and to encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

10. *Also urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to create an environment and conditions that will take care of and support children orphaned by AIDS;

11. *Encourages* Governments to recognize the challenges facing girls and women, particularly older women, who are primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to provide them with the necessary economic and psychosocial support;

12. *Further urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information and life-skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls within their socio-cultural contexts and sensitivities and the specific needs in their life cycle;

13. *Encourages* Governments and civil society to support women's groups and community organizations in changing harmful traditions and practices affecting the health of women and girls and to take steps to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including rape and sexual coercion, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of the epidemic;

14. *Encourages* accelerated research on vaccine development and intensified additional research on promotion of the female condom, microbicides and other

options that offer women more control over the protection of their reproductive and sexual health;

15. *Requests* Governments to ensure that condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases are available and affordable in places accessible to women while ensuring their privacy;

16. *Also requests* Governments to provide comprehensive health care for women with HIV, including treatment for opportunistic diseases and reproductive health services;

17. *Reaffirms* the value of coordination by the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), and calls upon all entities of the United Nations system to examine their programmes of work in order to incorporate activities to combat HIV/AIDS, especially among women and children;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in promoting sexual and reproductive health education for young people, in particular girls, while encouraging them to delay sexual initiation, and, in this context, urges that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

19. *Urges* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors to intensify their efforts in assisting Governments in determining the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS;

20. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to prevent HIV infection, to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa;

21. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to mainstream gender policies and programmes integrating HIV/AIDS activities.

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**Forty-sixth session**
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Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**United States of America: draft resolution**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,[5]

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must comply with the obligations they have assumed under the various international instruments to which they are a party,

*Welcoming* the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III) annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[4] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

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*Welcoming also* the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan, convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium on 10 and 11 December 2001,

*Welcoming further* developments in Afghanistan that will allow for all Afghans to enjoy inalienable rights and freedom unfettered by oppression and terror,

*Welcoming* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political and economic life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

*Welcoming also* the fact that women hold two seats in the Afghan Interim Administration and are included in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga,

*Welcoming further* the signing by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women,

*Welcoming* the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs and contributions of women and girls,

*Expressing* its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly the women and girls,

1. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the Afghan Interim Administration to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments;

2. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Administration to continue to make progress in ensuring:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of all their human rights;

(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society;

(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and encourages the international community to continue to provide funding and

technical assistance so that the Ministry can develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to protect women's human rights and support initiatives to end violence against them, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate effectively in political and economic life and in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and to increase their economic security;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes, and to that end, encourages such measures as the establishment of culturally sensitive programmes to sensitize Afghan officials, ministry staff and technical departments concerning international principles of human rights and gender equality;

6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of Afghanistan is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Encourages* United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts to employ more women in their programmes in Afghanistan, particularly at the decision-making level, to ensure, inter alia, the functioning of all programmes in order to better address the needs of the female population;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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# Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**United States of America: revised draft resolution**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other relevant international human rights and international humanitarian law instruments,

*Guided also* by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,

*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and the Geneva

[1] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[4] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

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Conventions of 12 August 1949[5] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6]

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must fulfil their international legal obligations under international instruments to which they are a party and under customary international law,

*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, in the Afghan situation,

*Recalling also* the statement by the President of the Security Council on 31 October 2001, on women, peace and security,

*Welcoming* the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,

*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghan women to participate actively in civil society, as evidenced by the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2001, the celebration of International Women's Day in Afghanistan, the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2001, and the Brussels Action Plan on Afghan women's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, adopted at the round table,

*Welcoming further* the international commitments expressed at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, co-chaired by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Saudi Arabia and the European Union, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, who have hosted so many Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas such as education, health and other basic services,

*Welcoming also* developments in Afghanistan that will contribute to the creation of conditions that will allow all Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy inalienable rights and freedoms and fully participate in the reconstruction and development of their country,

*Welcoming further* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women of all ages in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

*Welcoming* the inclusion of women in the Afghan Interim Administration and in the twenty-one-member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of promoting opportunities

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[6] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

for the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

*Welcoming also* the signing of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan women, by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration,

*Welcoming further* the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs of, and importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the international community's support of and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, particularly its women and girls, during the Taliban rule and since the creation of the Afghan Interim Administration,

*Encouraging* the members of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue efforts to draw attention to the situation of Afghan women and girls and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

*Recognizing* that special attention must be directed at the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan, including the right to freedom from discrimination,

*Recognizing also* that women's effective participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life should be promoted and protected throughout Afghanistan, including respect for the right of women to work, their right to education, to security of person, to freedom of movement and association, to freedom of opinion and expression and to equal access to facilities necessary to attain the highest standard of physical and mental health,

*Recognizing further* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs and priorities in all sectors of society in order to become full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

*Recognizing* the need for the international assistance community to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all its activities and that it proceed in a sensitive way giving Afghan women a stake in the process,

*Recognizing* that Afghan non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, have played a valuable role in the provision of basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and that they should continue to be important partners in the future recovery and reconstruction process,

*Mindful* of the continued fragile humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the importance of ensuring continued humanitarian assistance and protection for vulnerable Afghan civilians,

*Bearing in mind* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse for all Afghans is a precondition for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Afghan Interim Administration to recognize, protect, promote, and act in accordance with all human rights and

fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[7]

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs by the Afghan Interim Administration, and encourages the international community to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government, while also encouraging the Interim Administration to provide the necessary assistance to enable the Ministry to function effectively;

4. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Administration to continue to take measures towards ensuring:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) The effective participation of women of all ages in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(c) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(d) The equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments and at all levels of the Afghan society;

(e) The right of women and girls to physical security and for bringing to justice those responsible for attacks on women and girls;

(f) Freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) The effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to achieve the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

(h) Full support for the participation of women in the Special Independent Commission for the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga and in the Loya Jirga itself;

(i) That all ministries provide women with an equal opportunity for employment and develop the capacity to mainstream a gender perspective in their programmes;

(j) That women are well-represented as members of the Judicial Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission and that a gender perspective is taken into consideration when developing the mandates of those commissions;

(k) That the work of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission is underpinned by international human rights standards and integrates women's rights in its mandate;

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[7] E/CN.6/2002/5.

(l) That all feasible measures are taken to provide a safe environment free from violence to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons;

(m) A study and formulation of appropriate remedial measures are undertaken concerning the impact on women and girls of the existing legal system, including with regard to family law, divorce, property and inheritance rights;

(n) Consideration of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of signing and ratifying its Optional Protocol;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, to:

(a) Fully support the Afghan Interim Administration regarding the participation of women;

(b) Provide support to ministries to help develop their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes;

(c) Support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors;

(d) Provide technical assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(e) Develop and implement a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights, including the human rights of women;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and gender-mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) Develop comprehensive and coherent gender policy and programmes in Afghanistan and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation;

(c) Ensure the participation of Afghan women in all stages of programming, including planning, implementation and monitoring;

(d) Promote employment of Afghan women, including in management positions, and support women's freedom of movement and security in their employment with the assistance community;

(e) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights;

(f) Encourage the involvement of Afghan women in all phases of reconstruction;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including human rights education, to protect the human rights

of women and girls and to support initiatives to end violence against them and to increase their economic security, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to fully and effectively participate in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work, and encourages cooperation between the other Special Rapporteurs of the Commission in this regard;

9. *Calls upon* the Afghan Interim Administration to take all feasible measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, whether employed by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that they can, regardless of gender, carry out their work unhindered;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations E/CN.6/2002/L.4/Rev.2

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
21 March 2002

Original: English

**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 3
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

**United States of America: revised draft resolution**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and all other relevant international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law,

*Guided also* by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[3]

*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[6] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and the

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).
[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.
[4] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.
[5] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[7] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

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Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[8] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9]

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and must fulfil the international legal obligations they have undertaken,

*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, as well as the statement made by the President of the Council on 31 October 2001, on women, peace and security,[10]

*Welcoming* the Agreement on provisional arrangements in Afghanistan pending the re-establishment of permanent government institutions, signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001,[11]

*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghan women to participate actively in civil society, as evidenced by the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy, held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2001, the round table on building women's leadership in Afghanistan convened by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Government of Belgium, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 2001, and the Brussels Action Plan on Afghan women's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, adopted at the round table,

*Welcoming further* the international commitments expressed at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, co-chaired by the Government of Japan, the Government of the United States of America, the European Union and the Government of Saudi Arabia, held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January 2002,[12]

*Welcoming* the Afghan women's consultation held in Kabul on 7 March 2002 under the auspices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the celebration of International Women's Day in Afghanistan on 8 March 2002, as well as the holding of the workshop on human rights under the auspices of the Afghan Interim Authority and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Kabul on 9 March 2002,

*Welcoming also* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, who have hosted millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas such as education, health and other basic services,

*Welcoming further* the role of the international humanitarian organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees,

*Encouraging* the international community to continue providing refugee-hosting countries with various forms of assistance and cooperation so that they can further assist Afghan refugees,

*Bearing in mind* the desirability of a voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their country in safety and dignity,

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[9] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[10] S/PRST/2001/31.

[11] See S/2001/1154.

[12] See A/56/801-S/2002/134, annex.

*Welcoming* developments in Afghanistan that will contribute to the creation of conditions that will allow all Afghans, especially women and girls, to enjoy their inalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms and fully participate in the reconstruction and development of their country,

*Welcoming also* the commitment of the Afghan Interim Administration to the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the right of women to work outside the home,

*Welcoming further* the inclusion of women in the Afghan Interim Administration and in the twenty one member Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

*Welcoming* the signing of the Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women, by the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration,

*Welcoming also* the fact that the United Nations Immediate and Transitional Assistance Programme for the Afghan People 2002 reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development,

*Encouraging* the members of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to continue efforts to draw attention to the situation of Afghan women and girls,

*Recognizing* the importance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan,

*Recognizing also* that women's effective participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life should be promoted and protected throughout Afghanistan,

*Recognizing further* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

*Recognizing* the need for the international community to ensure that a gender mainstreaming approach is adopted in all its activities, and that it proceeds in a gender-sensitive way that gives Afghan women a key role in the process,

*Recognizing also* that non-governmental organizations are playing a valuable role both inside and outside Afghanistan in the provision of basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, and that they continue to be important partners in the recovery and reconstruction process,

*Mindful* of the continued fragile humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the importance of ensuring continued humanitarian assistance and protection for Afghan civilians,

*Emphasizing* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse for all Afghans is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes* the commitments made by the Afghan Interim Authority to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan including the conclusions and recommendations of the report;[13]

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs as an integral part of the Afghan Interim Administration, and urges the Interim Authority to provide the necessary assistance to enable the Ministry to function effectively, and encourages the international community to provide funding and technical assistance so that the Ministry can fulfil its task in promoting gender equality and develop the capacity to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming throughout the Government;

4. *Urges* the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority to:

(a) Respect fully the equal human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in accordance with international human rights law;

(b) Give serious and expeditious consideration to ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9] and consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention;[14]

(c) Repeal all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls, as well as those that impede the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Enable the full, equal, and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(e) Ensure the equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(f) Respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of the Afghan society;

(g) Protect the right of women and girls to security of person, and bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(h) Protect the right to freedom of movement for women and girls;

(i) Respect the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in accordance with Afghanistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;[5]

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[13] E/CN.6/2002/5.

[14] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

(j) Reaffirm full support for the participation of women in the Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga and in the Loya Jirga itself;

(k) Reaffirm the equal rights of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(l) Provide women with an equal opportunity for employment in all ministries and commissions, including the Judicial Commission, the Civil Service Commission and the Human Rights Commission; and take steps so that the work of the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission is underpinned by international human rights standards and integrates women's rights in its mandate;

(m) Provide a safe environment free from violence to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons;

(n) Conduct a review of the impact on women and girls of the existing legal system in order to facilitate appropriate remedial measures with regard to family law, property and inheritance rights;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, to:

(a) Fully support the Afghan Interim Authority and the future Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women;

(b) Provide support to ministries to help develop their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective into their programmes;

(c) Support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors;

(d) Provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

(e) Develop and implement a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights, including the human rights of women;

(f) Support measures to hold accountable those who are responsible for gross violations of women's human rights in the past, to ensure that full investigations are conducted, and that perpetrators are brought to justice;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and multilateral and bilateral donors, to:

(a) Ensure a human rights-based approach and gender-mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) Develop comprehensive and coherent gender policy and programmes in Afghanistan, apply good practices of gender budgeting and strengthen inter-agency mechanisms for coordination and cooperation;

(c) Ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Employ Afghan women, inter alia, in management positions, promote security in their employment with the assistance community, and respect the right to women's freedom of movement;

(e) Support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights;

(f) Ensure that all United Nations international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training that is appropriate on the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of the human rights of women and girls;

7. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes and that w men benefit equally with men from such programmes;

8. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of United Nations organizations to mainstream a gender perspective and their efforts to reappoint a senior gender adviser in the Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator or the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide financial and technical assistance, including human rights education, to protect the human rights of women and girls and to support initiatives to end violence against them and to increase their economic security, as well as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to fully and effectively participate in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

10. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to continue to give special attention to the human rights of women and girls and to incorporate a gender perspective in his work, and to cooperate with other Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights;

11. *Calls upon* the Afghan Interim Administration and the future Afghan Transitional Authority to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian workers in Afghanistan, whether employed by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that they can, regardless of gender, carry out their work unhindered;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-seventh session a report of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations E/CN.6/2002/L.5

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
7 March 2002

Original: English

**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 3 (a)
**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system**

**Australia,* Canada,* Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France,* Germany, Greece,* Guyana,* Italy, Liechtenstein,* Netherlands, New Zealand,* Nigeria,* Norway,* Portugal,* Senegal, Sweden,* Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution**

## Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Recalling* its resolution 45/2 of 17 March 2001, Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and General Assembly resolution 56/132 of 19 December 2001,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming a gender perspective in entities of the United Nations system;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a regular sub-item on gender mainstreaming on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council and the Council's decision to devote a coordination segment, before 2005, to the review and appraisal of system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/2002/2.

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1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;[2]

3. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages them to continue these efforts;

4. *Notes* the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and looks forward to further consideration of this issue by the Economic and Social Council.

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

United Nations E/CN.6/2002/L.6

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
8 March 2002

Original: English

**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 2
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

**Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations**

The Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001, recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

## Election of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and to ensure continuity in the work of its successive Bureaux, decides:

(a) That the terms of office of the members of the Commission will be for four regular sessions of the Commission, and begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January following their election by the Council, and end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected;

(b) To extend the terms of office of those members of the Commission whose terms are to expire:

(i) On 31 December 2002, until the conclusion of the forty-seventh session of the Commission;

(ii) On 31 December 2003, until the conclusion of the forty-eighth session of the Commission;

(iii) On 31 December 2004, until the conclusion of the forty-ninth session of the Commission;

(c) That, starting with the forty-seventh session in 2003, the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson

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and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional Commissions of the Council;

(d) That, in this context, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 will apply only to the substantive part of the sessions of the Commission.

United Nations E/CN.6/2002/L.7

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
12 March 2002

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 7
**Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session**

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* _____

## Chapter ___
## Organization of the session

### A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 March 2002. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to __).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), who also made a statement.

### B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of __ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ___ to the present report.

### C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and ___ meetings, on 4 and ___ March 2002, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

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*Chairperson*:
Othman Jerandi (Tunisia)

*Vice-Chairpersons*:
Fernando Estellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra (Brazil)
Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea)
Birgit Stevens (Belgium)

5. At its ___ meeting, on __ March, the Commission designated _____ as Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities.

## D. Agenda and organization of work

6. At its 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2002/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world;

(ii) Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-sixth session.

## E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

7. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed: Mostafa Alaei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Paul J. A. M. Peters

(Netherlands), Audra Plepytė (Lithuania), Connie Taracena Secaira (Guatemala) and Séraphine Toé (Burkina Faso). The working group held three meetings.

## F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

8. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council (E/5975/Rev.1) were circulated in documents E/CN.6/2002/NGO/1-13.

United Nations E/CN.6/2002/L.8

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 March 2002

Original: English

**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 2
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

**Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Birgit Stevens (Belgium), on the basis of informal consultations**

## Further organizational matters of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, in order to further develop opportunities for sharing national experience during its annual session, in particular with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] and to enhance its working methods, building upon its agreed conclusions 1996/1 and taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001:

(a) Decides, starting from its forty-seventh session, in 2003, to introduce the option of high-level round tables and to authorize the Bureau to decide, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, on the number, timing and theme of any such round tables;

(b) Stresses the need for the outcome of the substantive consideration of thematic issues to be concise and action-oriented.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

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# Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
**Forty-sixth session**
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 6
**Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission**

## Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women;
      (ii) Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

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